

House File 2291 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2291

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LYKAM, BERRY, GAINES, and
STAED

A BILL FOR

1 An Act making an appropriation to provide assistance to
2 parents, guardians, and custodians with costs resulting from
3 the death of a child.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. CHILD FUNERAL ASSISTANCE. There is appropriated
2 from the general fund of the state to the department of public
3 health for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending
4 June 30, 2015, the following amount, or so much thereof as is
5 necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

6 For a grant to assist parents in this state with costs
7 resulting from the death of a child in accordance with this
8 section:

9 \$ 100,000

10 1. The department shall award the amount appropriated in
11 this section in the form of a grant to a nonprofit organization
12 located in a city in this state with a population of more
13 than 2,283 but less than 2,320. The organization shall be
14 approved to operate under section 501(c)(3) of the federal
15 Internal Revenue Code and have been providing assistance since
16 at least July 2011, to parents, guardians, and custodians with
17 funeral-related expenses resulting from the unintended death
18 of a child.

19 2. The grantee shall utilize the grant to assist parents who
20 reside in this state with costs incurred for a funeral, burial
21 or cremation, cemetery costs, or grave marker costs associated
22 with the unintended death of a child of the parent or a child
23 under the care of a guardian or custodian. The grantee shall
24 apply the following eligibility factors in awarding such
25 assistance:

26 a. The child was a stillborn infant or was less than age
27 eighteen at the time of death.

28 b. The request for assistance was approved by the local
29 board or department of health or the county general assistance
30 director and may have been referred by a local funeral home.

31 c. To be eligible, the parent, guardian, or custodian must
32 be receiving public assistance benefits through the county,
33 state, or federal government, or provide other evidence of a
34 lack of financial resources to pay more than a portion of the
35 costs. Public assistance benefits shall include but are not

1 limited to county general assistance, or benefits provided
2 through the family investment program, federal food assistance
3 program, medical assistance program, or state child care
4 assistance program, or housing assistance.

5 d. The maximum amount of grant assistance provided under
6 this section to a parent, guardian, or custodian associated
7 with the death of a child is \$2,000. If the death is a multiple
8 death and the infants or children are being cremated, or buried
9 together, the same limitation applies.

10 e. To the extent the overall amount of assistance received
11 by a recipient for the costs addressed under this section does
12 not exceed the overall total of the costs, the recipient may
13 receive other public or private assistance in addition to grant
14 assistance under this section.

15 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in
16 this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
17 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
18 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until
19 expended.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill makes an appropriation to the department of public
24 health for a grant to provide assistance to parents, guardians,
25 and custodians with the costs resulting from the death of a
26 child.

27 The bill includes grantee qualifications; limits assistance
28 to the costs incurred for a funeral, burial or cremation,
29 cemetery costs, or grave marker costs associated with the
30 unintended death of a child of the parent or a child under
31 the care or custody of the guardian or custodian; limits
32 eligibility to parents, guardians, and custodians who receive
33 county, state, or federal public assistance or do not have
34 the financial resources to pay for more than a portion of the
35 costs; requires approval of a request for assistance by a local

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1 board or department of public health or the county general
2 assistance director; limits assistance under the grant to not
3 more than \$2,000; and allows a recipient to receive other
4 public or private assistance in addition to grant assistance.
5 The appropriation does not revert but remains available until
6 expended.